

## **FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** June 7, 2017

**Agenda Item:** Deer, Elk and Antelope Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Min

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**Background:** The Commission previously adopted quota ranges for deer and elk B licenses and antelope licenses for each hunting district within which FWP can make changes that do not need Commission approval. However, changes outside the adopted ranges do need Commission approval. FWP is proposing three such changes for deer and one for elk as shown below. Note that deer trend counts are not total population counts but are an index of population size and track population trajectory. No other changes are proposed. Detailed information on each proposal is found in the proposal justifications included in the Commission packet.

**Deer:** HD 405 – Increase the mule deer 405-00 B-license quota from 50 to 400 and the biennial range from 25-250 to 25-750. The objective is to reduce deer numbers and landowner complaints, and benefit the habitat. The general season type is for either-sex deer. The long-term average trend count is 611 and the 2017 count was 1,027.

HD 500 – Increase the mule deer 500-00 B-license quota from 200 to 400 and the biennial range from 5-200 to 5-600. The objective is to increase antlerless harvest and stabilize the population near the long-term average as per AHM guidelines. The general season type is for either-sex deer. The long-term average trend count is 674 and the 2017 count was 1,897.

HD 530 – Increase the mule deer 530-00 B-license quota from 10 to 200 and the biennial range from 5-50 to 5-400. The objective is to increase antlerless harvest and stabilize the population near the long-term average as per AHM guidelines. The general season type is limited buck permits with B-licenses. The long-term average trend count is 674 and the 2017 count was 1,897.

**Elk:** HD 204 – Increase the 204-00 antlerless elk B-license quota from 100 to 150 and the biennial range from 5-100 to 5-200. The objective is to reduce elk numbers toward the population objective. The general season type is for brow-tined bulls. The objective is 600 and the 2016 count was 1,056.

As pointed out in the season justifications for the deer seasons, mule deer have recovered very well from the lows in 2014.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** As noted in the season justifications for the various proposals, there is good public support from sportsmen, sportsmen's clubs, landowners, and area game wardens. Regional staff does not anticipate much opposition. For the HD 204 elk proposal the Hellgate Hunters and Anglers is in general support the proposal but voiced a concern about overharvesting public land elk. Public comment will be taken at this meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** No alternatives were considered.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends the Commission approve the proposed changes to deer and elk quotas and biennial quota ranges as proposed by FWP.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish & Wildlife Commission approve the proposed changes to deer and elk quotas and biennial quota ranges as proposed by FWP.